

## TIPS FOR STUDENTS FROM STUDENTS

# Hacks on How to Effectively Perform Legal Research

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Honing legal research skill is crucial for success in law school and beyond. To navigate this journey effectively, these essential hacks will help to optimize your legal research process:

- 1. Start with Secondary Sources:** Begin your exploration with secondary sources like journal articles and books. They provide a broader perspective and comprehensive understanding on the topic, helping you identify key areas to focus on when delving into relevant primary sources such as cases or tribunal decisions.
- 2. Utilize Specialized Databases:** Leverage specialized legal databases such as Lexis+™. With Lexis+, you can filter out irrelevant cases by jurisdiction, level of court, and topics, you can also use headnotes to identify whether a case is relevant to your research topic, which can significantly streamline your research process.
- 3. 'Note Up' for Comprehensive Understanding:** After identifying a relevant case, use the 'note up' function to uncover other cases that have cited it. This not only provides additional perspectives but also ensures that your legal research is up-to-date and comprehensive.
- 4. Organize Effectively with Folders:** Establish an organized system for storing and retrieving information. Leverage features like the 'folders' function to categorize cases, articles, and other materials. This helps maintain a systematic approach, especially when handling multiple assignments.



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- 5. Quick Cite Function for Efficiency:** Take advantage of the 'quick cite' function in Lexis+ to access a list of cases citing the one you're reviewing. This quick overview can guide you to relevant sources efficiently.
- 6. Explore Beyond Case Law:** Legal research is not limited to case law. Explore legislative materials, drafting documents, and other relevant content. Broadening your sources can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the legal landscape.
- 7. Continuous Practice and Learning:** Legal research is a skill that evolves. Even after law school, stay updated on new techniques and features. Platforms like Lexis+ often introduce improvements, such as the recent AI function. Familiarize yourself with these updates to stay at the forefront of legal research efficiency will help in your legal research process.

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